

Species Highlight: Large death-camass (*Zigadenus glaberrimus*)

Global Rarity Rank: **G5 – Globally secure**

State Rarity Rank: **S1 – Critically imperiled in VA**

Legal Status: **no legal status**



Photo by: Irv Wilson, DCR-DNH

Large death-camass is a perennial herb with white flowers that bloom in July. The northern limit of this species' range is Virginia where it is found on the southeastern coastal plain (Harvill et al., 1986) inhabiting open, seasonally wet marshes and such disturbed areas as powerline rights-of-way (TNC, 1996).

Like many Coastal Plain wetland plants, this species has suffered a loss of habitat due to conversion and/or draining of wetlands. In addition, this plant has declined as a result of active fire suppression, which has eliminated significant herbaceous-dominated wetlands of the Coastal Plain (DCR, 1989).

In Virginia, Large death-camass is currently known from five locations.

Literature Cited

Department of Conservation and Recreation. 1989. A Natural Heritage Resources Inventory and Biological Assessment of the Elko Tract, Henrico County, Virginia. Prepared by the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage. 7 November 1989.

Harvill, A.M., Jr. T.R. Bradly, C.E. Stevens, T.F. Wieboldt, D.M.E. Ware, and D.W. Ogle. 1986. Atlas of the Virginia Flora, 2nd ed. Virginia Botanical Associates, Farmville, VA.

The Nature Conservancy. 1996. Biological and Conservation Data System. Arlington, Virginia, USA.